

**United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
**Message for U.S. Citizens**  
**Bishwa Ijtema Annual Gathering (Jan 13-15 and Jan 20-22)**  
**January 5, 2017**

Islam's second-largest annual gathering after the Hajj, "Bishwa Ijtema," will take place January 13-15 and January 20-22, 2017 on the banks of the Turag River in Tongi. The main gathering point is about 3 km north of the International Airport. The government expects between three to four million visitors to attend the Ijtema this year.

This annual gathering leads to major traffic disruptions in Dhaka every year. We expect disruptions at **Mohakhali, Kakoli, Nikunja, Progoti Sharani (the road in front of the U.S. Embassy and Annex), Khilkhet, Uttara and Tongi.**

Please avoid Airport Road and all roads from Gazipur Chourasta to Kuril during the aforementioned dates and remain alert to changing conditions. If you plan to travel during these weekends, please bear in mind that this event will result in increased air travel into and out of Bangladesh, and likely delays.

U.S. citizens are reminded to exercise vigilance if in the vicinity of large gatherings as demonstrations can occur with little warning.

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), Travel Alerts, and [Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the [U.S. Embassy in Dhaka](#), Bangladesh, located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212, at (88) (02) 5566-2000, *8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.* Sunday through Thursday. Weekends and After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is *(88) (02) 5566-2000 and press "0"* and ask for the duty officer.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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